

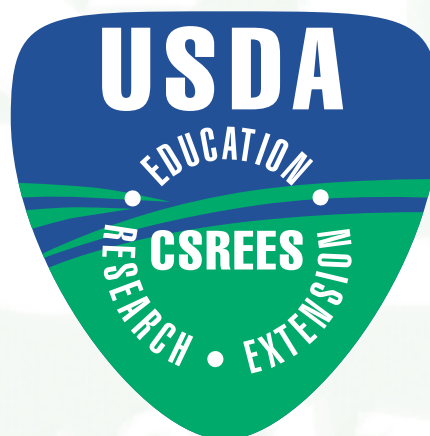
CSREES Administrator's Report to the Partnership Summer 2002

The mission of the Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service (CSREES) is to advance knowledge for agriculture, the environment, human health and well-being, and communities. In support of this mission, CSREES program areas have undertaken the following new initiatives and activities and/or addressed "hot" and emerging issues detailed in this report.



United States Department of Agriculture
July 2002

Advancing Knowledge for the
Food and Agricultural System



Message from the CSREES Administrator:

The third quarter of the federal fiscal year is usually the time during which panels are completing reviews for competitive grants programs, program leaders are meeting with multi-state and regional collaborators, initiative teams are convening conferences, and staff are conducting and preparing reports of program, civil rights, and facility reviews. The past spring was no exception at CSREES, except that overlaid on these activities is implementation of 2002 Farm Bill provisions. On May 13, 2002, President Bush signed the "Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002" into law.

The Farm Bill includes several programs and provisions directly involving CSREES and our partners, as well as provisions for programs administered by other entities at USDA in which we have a strong interest. Louise Ebaugh and Phil Carter of the Office of Extramural Programs have been coordinating questions and answers for many provisions of the new law, including several grant programs, matching requirements for formula funds at the 1890 institutions, and the addition of new institutions to land-grant university status. Bonnie Beavers of the Human Resources Division of the Agricultural Research Service, which provides personnel services to us, has been working with the Department's Office of the General Counsel and others to accurately interpret and develop guidance on changes in the Schedule A appointment status of some state extension employees. Phil Schwab has worked with many agency staff and partners within the Department and university system to analyze the energy, conservation, and other titles of the bill.

As Agency leadership meets with our university partners this summer, we are eager to hear your questions and provide whatever guidance we can about provisions of the Farm Bill.

— Colien Hefferan

Reports from CSREES Program Areas

CSREES LONG-TERM PLANNING

■ **CSREES White Papers:** As CSREES continues to develop budget priorities and engage in long-term planning, national program leaders, program directors, and managers have developed “white papers” on themes that are forward thinking and innovative. Six issue papers examine topics important to CSREES, USDA, and the Land-Grant University community: 1) Global Opportunities/Partnerships; 2) Consumer-Driven Agriculture; 3) Developing Scientific/Professional Expertise; 4) Exploring New Opportunities for Extension; 5) Agricultural Biosecurity: Prevention, Diagnosis, and Control Strategies for Pathogens and Pests; and 6) Cultivating Resilient Communities and Rural Prosperity in a Dynamic and Uncertain Environment. These “white papers” can be accessed on web site: <http://www.reeusda.gov/1700/whatnew/whtpapers/index.htm>.

■ **Strengthening the Partnership:** Partnership Task Force representatives from CSREES, eight land-grant universities, and the National Association of State Universities and Land-grant Colleges are meeting in Salt Lake City July 24-25 to develop an action plan for strengthening our shared research, education, and extension agenda. Contact: Jane Schuchardt, USDA/CSREES - jschuchardt@reeusda.gov.

COMMUNICATION ACTIVITIES

■ **CSREES Web Re-Engineering Project:** The CSREES Communications Staff is receiving bids from contractors to re-engineer the CSREES web site to become a more “public” oriented site. The new site will feature greater promotion of the CSREES/LGU partnership, highlighting programs, activities, and individuals who make the Partnership work. Contact: John Snyder, USDA/CSREES - jsnyder@reeusda.gov.

■ **Promotion of 4-H Centennial:** CSREES Communications Staff have had great success in promoting the 4-H Centennial. The most recent issue of *Martha Stewart Kids* featured a lengthy discussion of the 4-H program. The June 29 edition of the *Washington Post* had an article featuring a Wisconsin 4-H canoeing trip, “430

Miles of 4-H Character Building.” Episode 6 of the CSREES Partners video magazine will be released next month featuring 4-H Centennial events and programs. Contact: Marti Asner, USDA/CSREES - masner@reeusda.gov.

■ **Secretary’s Honor Awards:** CSREES Communications Staff will be contacting all Partner institutions requesting nominations for groups and individuals to receive the 2003 Secretary’s Honor Awards from USDA. The Communications Staff just hosted the 2002 CSREES Recognition for the 56th Annual USDA Honor Awards on July 8 where 11 agency awards were presented. Contact: Kimberly Johnson, USDA/CSREES - kjohnson@reeusda.gov.

■ **Crisis Communications Workshop:** CSREES Communications Staff co-hosted a workshop in June: **Crisis Communications after 9/11: What happens next time?** The workshop featured both private industry and federal government communications professionals who discussed strategies developed since September 11 for effective communications during a crisis. The conference is available via web streaming at: <http://www.ocav.usda.gov:8080/ramgen/csrees/cscrm>. Contact: Dave McAllister, USDA/CSREES - dmcallister@reeusda.gov.

GRANT PROGRAM UPDATES

■ **NRICGP Deadline and Submission Changes:** In FY 2003, all National Research Initiative Competitive Grants Program (NRICGP) deadlines will be changed from “postmarked by” dates to “received by” dates. In addition, all program deadlines will change and be moved forward to one of the following dates: October 1, November 1, December 1, or January 15. All new deadline dates are available at: <http://www.reeusda.gov/nri>.

■ **Upcoming CSREES Stakeholder Workshop:** A CSREES one-day stakeholder workshop is being planned for October 2002 to solicit input from farm and commodity associations and the professional and scientific community. A report will summarize stakeholder input for future CSREES program development. Contact: Edward Wilson, USDA/CSREES - ewilson@reeusda.gov.

- **National Plant Genome Initiative Public Workshop:** On June 6-7, CSREES and ARS, in partnership with the National Science Foundation and Department of Energy jointly sponsored a public workshop, "The National Plant Genome Initiative: Objectives for the Years 2003-2008," at the National Academy of Sciences in Washington, DC. Experts shared ideas and considered objectives for the next five-year Initiative phase. A report will be produced by September 2002. Contact: Edward Wilson, USDA/CSREES - ewilson@reeusda.gov.

ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY EFFORTS

- **Unique Public-Private Effort:** CSREES/ECS is playing a strong leadership role in developing a unique multi-agency, public-private cooperative effort to diversify, stimulate, and increase financial, technical, and other support for entrepreneurial development in rural communities. Rural community leaders, funders, policy-makers, and grassroots leaders participated in a June 26 kick-off event for this initiative, co-hosted by ECS with the National Rural Funders Collaborative (NRFC). NRFC represents nine national foundations dedicated to building partnerships with other public and private funders to expand resources for strengthening rural communities and family life quality. Through a competitive grants process, 20 community-based initiatives received first-round funding. Contact: Anthony Smith, USDA/CSREES - tonysmith@reeusda.gov.
- **Preparing for Retirement Initiative:** "Financial Security in Later Life," a national Extension initiative launched in March 2002, includes a toolkit of educational programs designed to help consumers prepare for retirement and potential long-term care costs. More than three-fifths of the states have submitted detailed plans for participation as of June 2002. Retirement planning resources are available at: <http://www.reeusda.gov/financialsecurity>. Contact: Jane Schuchardt, USDA/CSREES - jschuchardt@reeusda.gov.
- **National Small Farm Conference:** CSREES is co-hosting the 3rd National Small Farm Conference with New Mexico State University (NMSU). Scheduled for September 17-20, 2002, in Albuquerque, NM, the conference theme is "Partnering for Success of Small Family Farms and Ranches." The purpose is to strengthen partnerships among small farm and ranch stakeholders and leaders to maximize resources targeted to America's small and mid-sized farmers. See web site: www.cahe.nmsu.edu/smallfarm. Contact: Denis Ebodaghe, USDA/CSREES - debodaghe@reeusda.gov or Edmund Gomez, NMSU - gr@nmsu.edu.

FAMILY, 4-H, AND NUTRITION INITIATIVES

- **National 4-H Centennial Activities:** CSREES' Families, 4-H, and Nutrition Program orchestrated several national 4-H Centennial activities during 2002, with a January presentation by Secretary Veneman and a 4-H delegation presenting the Partner in 4-H Award to President Bush in the White House. This and other 4-H Centennial information can be found at: www.national4-Hheadquarters.gov and at www.4HCentennial.org. Contact: Virginia Gobeli, USDA/CSREES - vgobeli@reeusda.gov.
- **New Healthier U.S. Initiative:** USDA is helping achieve a healthier America through innovative programs and partnerships. USDA and other Federal agencies helped President Bush kickoff his new Healthier U.S. Initiative. Nutrition education research and Extension projects and programs from CSREES and the land-grant system were highlighted along with related work from other USDA and federal agencies. Events took place at the White House on June 20 and at Fort McNair on June 22. Secretary Veneman gave her support for the Initiative by participating on June 22 in the President's Fitness Challenge at Fort McNair where she joined the First Lady on a 1-1/2 mile walk. To learn more, visit: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/infocus/fitness/> or <http://www.healthierus.gov/>. Contact: Susan Welsh, USDA/CSREES - swelsh@reeusda.gov.
- **New Collaboration to Reduce Cancer:** CSREES, the National Cancer Institute, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention held their kick-off on July 3-4 at the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, MD, for a pilot program being developed to reduce breast and cervical cancer. Land-grant staff and Anna Mae Kobbe of CSREES serve as working group members. Contact: Anna Mae Kobbe, USDA/CSREES - akobbe@reeusda.gov.

■ Partnering to Enhance Americans' Quality of Life:

CSREES and the land-grant system are exploring new collaborations between federal departments to enhance Americans' quality of life. Dr. Carol L. Anderson of Cornell University will work with CSREES staff to design a strategy for a CSREES/Department of Health and Human Services partnership that strengthens CSREES' research, education, and extension missions. Contact: Anna Mae Kobbe, USDA/CSREES - akobbe@reeusda.gov.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY UPDATES

- **New CSREES Unit:** The ISTM is a newly formed CSREES unit responsible for information technology applications and operations within CSREES. The unit's goal is to enable CSREES to efficiently and effectively conduct business through the use of state-of-the-art information systems and technologies and provide the public with means to utilize agricultural information for their betterment. Among many activities, ISTM is developing a new CSREES records management system using electronic document management. Contact: Sally Rockey, USDA/CSREES - srockey@reeusda.gov.
- **New Initiatives in Operations:** A number of initiatives are taking place on the operations side of ISTM. CSREES is deploying the Windows 2000 operating system and Office XP across the Agency. Upgrades of computer equipment to new Dell's are in progress. Infrastructure and functional improvements to the CSREES network will improve network efficiency and assure capacity for electronic grants. Contact: Sally Rockey, USDA/CSREES - srockey@reeusda.gov.
- **New e-Extension Initiative:** ISTM and others in CSREES are participating with the land-grant system on an exciting new e-Extension initiative to assess and potentially implement an electronic extension system. CSREES will provide monetary support. Contact: Sally Rockey, USDA/CSREES - srockey@reeusda.gov.

NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT ACTIVITIES

- **Symposium to Offset Greenhouse Gas Emissions:** CSREES, the Forest Service, Agricultural Research Service, Natural Resources Conservation Service, and Farm Service Agency are sponsoring a Symposium on Natural Resource Management

to Offset Greenhouse Gas Emissions to be held November 19-21 in Raleigh, NC. A panel will discuss the policy implications of scientific carbon research findings. See web site: <http://www.sgcp.ncsu.edu/carbon2002>. Contact: Jane Dodds, USDA/CSREES - jdodds@reeusda.gov.

■ New Extension Opportunity in 2002 Farm

Bill: The Forestry Title (Title VIII) of the 2002 Farm Bill establishes the new Forest Land Enhancement Program (FLEP). The legislation provides mandatory funding of \$100 million over six years for technical assistance, financial incentives, and educational programs. At the state level, the program will be delivered through the state forestry agency with advice from the state Forest Stewardship Committee. Extension has been invited to be involved in the Stewardship Committee and in educational program efforts related to FLEP. Contact: Eric Norland, USDA/CSREES - enorland@reeusda.gov.

■ CSREES Partners with Montana State to Produce Housing Materials for Native Americans:

Called "Connected to the Earth," new educational materials for Native Americans on environmental health issues in and around the home were recently released by Montana State University, with funding and assistance from CSREES. Michael P. Vogel at Montana State University (mvogel@montana.edu) and Joe Wysocki, USDA/CSREES - (jwysocki@reeusda.gov) have shared the materials widely with federal partners and other groups.

CSREES GRANT POLICY UPDATES

■ Federal Grants Streamlining Program:

CSREES, acting as the USDA representative, is working with 25 other federal agencies to implement the Federal Grants Streamlining Program. This effort is required by the Federal Financial Assistance Management Improvement Act of 1999 (Public Law 106-107) to plan and implement major grant reform across federal agencies, provide coordination with stakeholders, conduct business the same way for programs with similar purposes, and apply new technology for grants processing. CSREES anticipates having a fully electronic system for submitting proposals to the Agency and sending awards to recipients in FY 2005. Contact: Melanie Krizmanich, USDA/CSREES - mkrizmanich@reeusda.gov.

Reports from CSREES Program Areas (cont.)

PLANNING AND ACCOUNTABILITY

■ CSREES and EPA Collaborations Discussed:

On June 27, Gary Cunningham, CSREES' Associate Administrator, and other CSREES staff briefed EPA agriculture liaison Jean Marie Peltier and her staff about CSREES programs and opportunities for collaboration. All 10 EPA regions were connected by conference call. Contact: Gary Cunningham, USDA/CSREES gcunningham@reeusda.gov.

■ Maintaining Land-Grant University Laboratory Security:

On July 10, Gary Cunningham, CSREES' Associate Administrator, met in Atlanta with audit teams from the Office of Inspector General to help them develop a plan for auditing research facilities at land-grant universities to maintain laboratory security. This effort is part of the Department's ongoing Homeland Security efforts. Contact: Gary Cunningham, USDA/CSREES - gcunningham@reeusda.gov.

PLANT, ANIMAL, SMALL FARM, AND BIOBASED PRODUCT UPDATES

■ CSREES Organizes Minority Farm Tour:

CSREES' PAS unit has organized a minority farm tour July 22-August 2 for CSREES staff in cooperation with four 1890 land-grant universities. Southern University, Alcorn State University, University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff, and Langston University are working with CSREES in planning the tour. The goal of the tour is to identify ways to better engage with the 1890 land-grant institutions to better serve minority farmers. Contact: USDA/CSREES - Ann Marie Thro - athro@reeusda.gov.

■ Regional Pest Management Centers Start Paying Off.

Four CSREES-funded Regional Pest Management Centers, created in FY 2000 to enhance the ability of the land-grant university system and USDA to respond to pest management needs and issues important to the public and private sectors, are proving very effective. A Soybean Aphid Pest Alert fact sheet provided information and a companion web site, Soybean Aphid Watch, have been utilized by APHIS, other government agencies, and the agricultural community throughout the North Central and Southern regions to track the spread of this pest. The web site can be accessed at:

http://www.pmcenters.org/northcentral/saphid/aphidin_dex.htm. A West Nile Virus Pest Alert fact sheet, developed by a team of 18 medical entomologists and a national response team and distributed nationally, helped over 70,000 individuals obtain state-based information on the virus. The pest alert can be accessed at: <http://www.ncpmc.org/newsalerts/westnilevirus.html>. Contact: Mike Fitzner, USDA/CSREES - mfitzner@reeusda.gov.

■ CSREES Providing Leadership for Federal Invasive Species Effort:

The agency has formed an invasive species working group to help coordinate its programs and increase collaboration with the National Invasive Species Council and other federal agencies, such as the Departments of the Interior and Commerce. Contact: Thomas Bewick USDA- CSREES - tbewick@reeusda.gov.

■ Biosecurity Issue Papers Prepared:

During the past 15 months, CSREES has prepared two issue papers on animal and plant diseases and pests and the role of CSREES in developing programs in support of agricultural biosecurity. The first issue paper can be accessed at: www.reeusda.gov/1700/whatnew/whtpapers/index.htm. More information on the diagnostic centers can be found at: www.reeusda.gov/1700/whatnew/02/diagnosticlabs.htm. Contact: William Wagner, USDA/CSREES - wwagner@reeusda.gov.

■ Nation's Rapid Response Plant and Animal Disease Diagnostic Network:

As part of the Department's Homeland Security efforts, an Oversight Group made up of Gary Cunningham, CSREES' Associate Administrator, and other CSREES and Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) scientists met on July 8 in Washington, DC. Guidelines and plans of work are being developed to set up a network among each of the laboratories involved to detect biosecurity risks. CSREES worked closely with APHIS and funded the initial development of the plant and animal diagnostic networks. One involves 6 land-grant universities in a plant diagnostic services network that will interface with APHIS and state scientists. The second one involves 11 land-grant universities and 2 state animal diagnostic laboratories in a network for animal diagnostic services. Network participants will share data to provide a better picture of evolving pests and diseases in the United

States. Contact: William Wagner, USDA/CSREES - (wwagner@reeusda.gov) and Kitty Cardwell, USDA/CSREES - (kcardwell@reeusda.gov).

- **Farm Bill Supports Biobased Product Development:** As required by the Energy Title, Section 9002, in the 2002 Farm Bill, criteria are being developed for products to be labeled "USDA Certified Biobased." CSREES is participating in this activity. This is viewed as a strategy that will create a market pull for new biobased products and new technologies coming out of the land-grant system. Contact: Carmela Bailey, USDA/CSREES (cbailey@reeusda.gov) and Hongda Chen, USDA/CSREES - (hchen@reeusda.gov).

EDUCATIONAL AND MULTI-CULTURAL OUTREACH

- **1890 Capacity Building Grants Awards for 2002:** The FY 2002 Peer Review Panel for the 1890 Capacity Building Grants Program has made tentative funding recommendations. The panel has recommended 41 projects (24 teaching, 17 research) from 147 proposals received. CSREES plans to make awards to 15 1890 institutions in 14 states to support the design and implementation of innovative teaching and research projects in targeted-need areas of the food and agricultural sciences. These recommended projects, however, still need to undergo an administrative review before final awards can be made. Award notices will be issued in September. Contact: Richard Hood, USDA/CSREES (rhood@reeusda.gov).
- **Multicultural Alliance Outreach:** George Godfrey, USDA/CSREES/SERD/Multicultural Alliances NPL, made two presentations at the University of Alaska-Fairbanks for the USDA Higher Education Project Advisory Committee Meeting on July 18-19 to help Alaska-Native Serving Institutions better understand how CSREES capacity building grants can be utilized to meet the needs of students from widely dispersed Alaskan communities. Contact: George L. Godfrey, USDA/CSREES - ggodfrey@reeusda.gov.

- **2002 Agriculture in the Classroom Conference:** George Cooper, CSREES Deputy Administrator, SERD, called upon 300 teachers, farmers, and Agriculture in the Classroom consortium members to revitalize the image of agriculture for the nation's school children by diversifying programs through outreach and building stronger linkages with the land-grant community. The conference was held June 20-22 in Washington, DC. Contact: Kathleen Cullinan, USDA/CSREES - kcullinan@reeusda.gov.

CSREES Science Policy and Legislative

Affairs: The 2002 Farm Bill continues the commitment to a science-based agricultural food and fiber production system by reauthorizing existing programs and devoting more than \$1.3 billion in new funds to agricultural science and extension programs over the life of the bill, as described below. Contact: Phil Schwab, USDA/CSREES Advisor - pschwab@reeusda.gov.

- **Initiative for Future Agriculture and Food Systems Reauthorized:** Congress provided funding of \$120 million in FY 2004, \$140 million in FY 2005, \$160 million in FY 2006 and \$200 million in FY 2007 and beyond. Research, Education, and Extension related to Rural Community and Business Development was added as an additional purpose for the program.
- **Interpreting the Farm Bill:** The Farm Bill contains a Sense of Congress to double funding for agricultural research, extension, and education activities.
- **New Programs Authorized:** The Farm Bill authorizes a new rural e-commerce extension program and a new competitive equipment grants program, and it provides for biomass research and development and organic research and extension programs with mandatory funding. The bill also encourages USDA to develop joint competitive grant programs with other federal science agencies.

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